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the completion of all the work without considerable succor in the way of provisions, people and ammunition, and speedy dispatch of these. Let the Admiral be advised by the said Conde of this, he asking him for what is necessary, and letting him know to what place and at what time he must dispatch these things to me (sending to him also the map, report and sailing-directions concerning all I have done in said exploration to the present time) so that Your Highness may order that the same be sent to me. I trust in God that I may do a great service to His Majesty and that I shall discover great realms and riches. Of all that may be done I shall advise Your Highness, as opportunities for doing this may present themselves, with truth and faithfully. May Our Lord guard Your Highness, a ward so necessary to the christian. I am the servant of Your Highness.

Harbor of Monterey, 28th December, 1602.

SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO.

(a *rubrica.*)

Document No. 15.

CARTA á S. M. de Sebastian Vizcaino fechada en Megico á 23 de Mayo de 1603, participando su regreso del descubrimiento y demarcacion de las costas de las Californias hasta los 42 grados de latitud norte.

El año pasado de seiscientos dos por orden de vuestro virrey Conde de Monterrey, fuí á descubrir la costa de la mar del sur con dos navios una lancha y un barco luengo, con la gente de mar y guerra pertrechada y bastecida de lo necesario para un año, salí del puerto de Acapulco como entonces di aviso á vuestra magestad á cinco de Mayo del dicho año y en conformidad con la orden é instruccion que lleve descubri muy puntualmente toda la costa sin dejar puerto, baya, ysla ni ensenada que no se sondase y demarcase conforme á buena cosmografia y arte de marcar, porque como á vuestra magestad escribió su virrey llevé un cosmografo de confidencia y ciencia en tablas geograficas en mi compañía para que muy estensamente pusiese y apuntase en mapa y carta lo que vuestra magestad mandara ber por la que el dicho virrey enbia

agora con la demarcacion y relaciones de todo. entre los puertos que hallé de mas consideracion fué uno en altura de treinta y siete grados que le nombré Monterrey. Como de alli escrivi á vuestra magestad á los veinte y ocho de Setiembre del dicho año que es todo lo que se puede desear para comodidad y escala de las naos de la carrera de Filipinas donde vienen á reconocer esta costa, es el puerto abrigado de todos los vientos y en la marina tiene muchos pinos para arbolar las naos del tamaño que las quisieren y tambien encinas, robles, romero, para, rosas de Alejandria, mucha caça de conejos, liebres, perdices y otros generos y especies de espanya mas que en cierra morena y abes bolatiles de diferentes maneras. La tierra es de apacible temple y de buenas aguas y muy fertil por el vicio de la arboleda y planta porque vi algunos frutos de ella y particularmente de castañas y bellotas, mayor que las de espanya y muy poblada de gente cuya condicion vi ser suave, mansa y docil y muy abta para reducirlos á el santo evangelio y corona de vuestra magestad, su comida es de muchas y barias semillas que tienen y tambien carne de caça como son ciervos que los ay mayores que vacas y ossos y ganado vacuno y cibolas y otros muchos. Son los yndios de buen cuerpo, blancos de rostro y las mugeres algo menores y bien agestados, su bestido es de la gente de la playa de pellejos de lobos marinos que los ay en abundancia que los curten y aderezan mejor que en Castilla, tienen tambien gran cantidad de hilo de lino de Castilla, cañamo algodón de que hacen cordeles para pescar y redes para conejos y liebres y tienen sus embarcaciones de madera de pino muy bien fabricadas en que salen á la mar con catorce remeros por banda can gran ligereza aun con grande tormenta. Tomé relacion de ellos y otros muchos que descubrí en la costa en mas de ochocientas leguas que anduve toda poblada sin numero de yndios que decian haver la tierra adentro grandes poblaciones conbidandose fuese con ellos. Con muestras de mucha amistad y querer la contratacion de nosotros aficionados á la ymagen de nuestra señora que los enseñé y muy atentos al sacrificio de la misa. Usan de barios ydolos como me rremito á la dicha relacion de vuestro virrey y conocen bien la plata y oro y decian aberlo la tierra adentro.

Y aviendose de poblar algun puerto ó parage de esta costa ninguno es mas aproposito que este de Monte-Rey por las causas dichas á donde las naos de tornaviaje de Filipinas podran benir á él y si les diese tormenta despues de enmaradas no arribar al Japon como otras veces lo an hecho y perdidose tantas con tan gruesa hacienda que si este estuviera descubierto no se ubiera deservido tanto

vuestra magestad. Conocidos los tiempos de verano se podrá entrar por este paraje la tierra adentro y descubrirla porque prométe muchas riquezas y por la costa se pueda tambien descubrir el resto de ella que aunque yo llegué á cuarenta y dos grados que fué el limite de mi instruccion pasa adelante la costa y esta cerca del Japon y costa de la gran china ques una corta travesia y lo mismo de la tartaria y famosa ciudad de quinsay con innumerables gentes que conforme á la relacion que tube son del propio yndibiduo y natural de los dichos que para la propagacion de la fe y rreduccion de tantas almas á Dios se abrirá la puerta para que la semilla del santo evangelio se produzca á tanta gentilidad.

Once meses se gastaron en el viaje en que se padecieron notables trabajos y con el mucho que tuvo mi gente enferma toda y se murieron cuarenta y dos hasta llegar al puerto de acapulco, yo e acudido señor á continuar el servicio de vuestra magestad en este descubrimiento como lo hice en la jornada de la California, y otras muchas de que tengo avisado á vuestra Real consejo por papeles que presente en él con mucho cuidado y puntualidad como tambien me rremito á los nuevos que agora ban en que e gastado la mayor parte de mi hacienda y salud. mas la poca que me queda y mi persona está dedicada á vuestro Real servicio con la entereza, amor, fidelidad de leal vasallo y criado de vuestra magestad á quien suplico mande se bean los mios remunerandolos con las mercedes de tan poderossas y reales manos mandando tambien haçerla á los oficiales de mar y guerra que llevé conmigo rrecomendando sus personas á vuestro virrey de esta nueva España. dios guarde la Real y Catolica persona de vuestra magestad de Mexico á 23 de Mayo de 1603. SEBASTIÁN VIZCAINO.

TRANSLATION.

Letter to His Majesty from Sebastian Vizcaino, dated at Mexico, on the 23d of May, 1603, announcing his return from the exploration and demarcation of the coasts of the Californias as far as latitude 42° north.

In the past year of six hundred and two, by order of your Viceroy, the Conde de Monterey, I set out on the discovery of the coast of the South Sea with two ships, a *lancha*, and a *barcoluengo*,

with the requisite sailors and soldiers, armed and provisioned with everything necessary for a year. I sailed from the port of Acapulco, as I advised Your Majesty at the time, on the 5th of May of said year; and, in conformity with the order and instructions I had, I explored very diligently the whole coast, not leaving harbor, bay, island or bight without sounding and delineating it in accordance with the rules of good cosmography and the art of demarcation; for, as your Viceroy wrote to Your Majesty, I was accompanied by a cosmographer in whom confidence can be reposed and cunning in the matter of geographical computations, in order that he might put down and note in the most complete manner on map and chart the result of the examination Your Majesty should order, which the Viceroy now forwards, together with the delineation and reports concerning the whole. Among the ports of greater consideration which I discovered was one in thirty-seven degrees of latitude, which I called Monterey. As I wrote to Your Majesty from that port on the 28th September¹ of said year, it is all that can be desired for commodiousness and as a station for ships making the voyage to the Phillipines, sailing whence they make a landfall on this coast. This port is sheltered from all winds, while on the immediate coast there are pines from which masts of any desired size can be obtained, as well as live oaks and white oaks, rosemary, the vine, the rose of Alexandria, a great variety of game, such as rabbits, hares, partridges, and other sorts and species found in Spain and in greater abundance than in the Sierra Morena, and flying birds of kinds differing from those to be found there. This land has a genial climate, its waters are good, and it is very fertile—judging from the varied and luxuriant growth of trees and plants; for I saw some of the fruits, particularly chestnuts and acorns, which are larger than those of Spain. And it is thickly settled with people whom I found to be of gentle disposition, peaceable and docile, and who can be brought readily within the fold of the holy gospel and into subjection to the crown of Your Majesty. Their food consists of seeds which they have in abundance and variety and of the flesh of game, such as deer which are larger than cows, and bear, and of neat cattle and bisons and many other animals. The Indians are of good stature and fair complexion, the women being somewhat less in size than the men and of pleasing countenance. The clothing of the people of

1. Making the month September must be a mistake of the copyist. Vizcaino is made to say here that he wrote to the King from Monterey Bay on the 28th September. He did not anchor in that bay until the 16th of December. On the 28th of this latter month he wrote the letter, of which a copy precedes this, to a person whom he addresses as "Your Highness."

the coast-lands consists of the skins of the sea-wolves abounding there, which they tan and dress better than is done in Castile; they possess also, in great quantity, flax like that of Castile, hemp and cotton, from which they make fishing-lines and nets for rabbits and hares. They have vessels of pine-wood very well made, in which they go to sea with fourteen paddle-men of a side, with great dexterity—even in very stormy weather. I was informed by them, and by many others I met with in great numbers along more than eight hundred leagues of a thickly settled coast, that inland there are great communities, which they invited me to visit with them. They manifested great friendship for us and a desire for intercourse; were well affected towards the image of Our Lady which I showed to them and very attentive to the sacrifice of the mass. They worship different idols, for an account of which I refer to said report of your Viceroy, and they are well acquainted with silver and gold, and said that these were found in the interior.

And, as some port or place on this coast is to be occupied, none is so proper for the purpose as this harbor of Monterey. For the reasons given, this port can be made by ships on the return voyage from the Phillipines; and if, after putting to sea, a storm be encountered, they need not, as formerly, run for Japan, where so many have been cast away and so much property lost; and, had this port been known previously, Your Majesty would not have been so badly served. The time of the occurrence of the dry seasons being known, from this place the interior can be reached and explored, such exploration promising rich returns; and proceeding along the coast, the remainder of it can be examined, for, although I went as far as the forty-second degree of latitude, this being the limit fixed in my instructions, the coast-line trends onward to near Japan and the coast of Great China, which are but a short run away, and the same is the case with regard to Tartary and the famous city of Quinsay; and, according to the reports I received, there are to be found very numerous peoples akin to those I have referred to—so the door will be opened for the propagation of the faith and the bringing of so many souls to a knowledge of God in order that the seed of the holy gospel may yield a harvest among all these heathen.

Eleven months were spent on the voyage, during which noteworthy hardships were suffered; and, notwithstanding the unhappy experience of my men, who were all sick and of whom forty-two died before our return to the port of Acapulco, I again

offer to serve Your Majesty in continuing this exploration, as I did on the voyage to California and on many others, of which I have given account to your royal council in carefully and exactly prepared documents which I have presented there; and I refer, furthermore, to others now forwarded, in which it is shown I have spent the greater part of my fortune and of my health. Yet the little of these remaining to me, as well as my person, is devoted to your royal service with the constancy, love and fidelity of a loyal vassal and servant of Your Majesty, who, I pray, will order the necessities of my men to be considered and that they be rewarded with boons from those powerful royal hands, and that the same be ordered to be done for the naval and military officers who accompanied me, their persons being recommended to your Viceroy of this New Spain. God guard the royal and catholic person of Your Majesty. Mexico, 23d of May, 1603.

SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO.²

Document No. 16.



V^a Jhs M^a Jph

Excell^{mo} Señor

MUY ven^{do} Señor mio, Exc^{mo} acabo d^e escribir á V. E. largam^{te} p^r un correo q^e por California despachó, quatro dias ha, el S^r Capⁿ Dⁿ Fernando Rivera, en contestacion dela d^e V. E. d^e 25 d^e Mayo, q^e en 6 d^e Agosto por el mismo conducto y mano d^e dho S^r Capitan, recibio el P. Lect^r Fr. Francisco Palou, q^e en esta me acompaña, y con los demas assumptos ocurrentes en estas Misiones, incluyendo el Diario d^e uno d^e los dos Religiosos q^e acompañaron la expedicion d^e mar embiada p^r V. E. baxo el comando del official d^e mar Dⁿ Juan Perez El motivo de haver despachado dhas cartas y papeles por un conducto q^e es regular q^e sea d^e bast-

2. Vizcaino's letters, generally, are full of exaggerated statements and falsehoods; and in this letter he gives his fancy a slack rein. We know that Monterey Bay is not landlocked. At the time of his visit many of the beasts and plants he mentions did not exist, nor had they ever existed, in California; nor did he meet with any natives such as he describes. His object in thus exercising his talent for romancing was, of course, further employment.